



Grade Playing Restriction Policy

GPR 1 & 2

Overview:

Coaches and referees must be aware of the impact that large players may have on a game and other players. They should also be cautious of the safety risk these larger players introduce. The number of situations where these large players can be misused and create unnecessary risk is great, therefore the onus and responsibility to protect all players lies with the coaches.

Policy:

Any player weighing more than 10kg above the grade weight limit that they age/weight into according to the WRFU Weights & Grading chart **OR** any a player in the U13 grade who weighs in excess of 75kg will be entered onto the GPR playing restrictions register (GPR). These players must be identified on their team sheet and signed off by a WRFU appointed delegate at their official weigh-in. Coaches must identify these players to the opposing coach before each game when completing their pre-game procedure.

If a player on the GPR is playing up **two** grades due to weight, they will be classified as an GPR2 player and will **not** be subject to the playing restrictions detailed for GPR1 below. These players must still be monitored, and the misuse of these players will be dealt with accordingly.

All other GPR players will be classified as GPR1 and are subject to the conditions outlined below. They must be given every freedom to express themselves, but they must not be allowed to do so when it may cause unnecessary risk of danger to themselves or others.

GPR1 players must **NOT**:

- take the ball off the back of a scrum if playing at No: 8,
- when a penalty or free-kick is awarded, tap and run with the ball, or receive a pass within 5 meters of the spot, at penalty time.
- be used as a “battering ram” during general play.

Players appearing on the GPR must not be played for short spells of time throughout a game. They are subject to the same National Rugby Policy 6 (Half Game Rule) which states that it is compulsory that all players play at least half a game of rugby. For players at Small Blacks level, this can consist of two quarters. Rolling subs are not permitted, however substitutions at quarter time, half time, and three-quarter time are permitted.

Where it is reported that such a player is being used in a way that puts them or other players at unnecessary risk, the JRAB has the right to immediately suspend that player, players coach and/or team until it is satisfied that the risk has been sufficiently addressed and no longer exists.

Complaints Concerning GPR Players

Any complaints about the use of GPR1 and GPR2 players must be made in the manner prescribed under the WRFU Junior Rugby complaints policy.